

**Monticello-Jasper County Chamber of Commerce**

P O Box 133  
119 W. Washington Street  
Monticello, Georgia 21064



Jasper County Courthouse

Phone: 706.468.8994  
Fax: 706.468.8043  
Email: jasperchamber@historicmonticello.com  
Email: betterhometown@bellsouth.net

October 20, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Commissioners:


As President of a small, rural Chamber of Commerce in Georgia, I am writing to urge your approval of the AT&T-BellSouth merger. I have learned of the merger's developments in the past few days and I am extremely pleased to hear many of the details.

The commitments that AT&T have recently announced for much greater broadband affordability and availability will most assuredly be of benefit to our residents in Jasper County. Today, approximately one third of our county residents have no access to broadband service of any type and this is of great concern to my membership. Every day, citizens come into my office and ask, "When will we get this type of service?" I can only respond with, "We are working to get this service to all of our residents." Approval of the merger will address this critical need by offering inexpensive and widely available service to our citizens.

I understand that AT&T has proposed to the Commission a commitment to provide its dial access customers a free upgrade to DSL, including a free modem after the merger closing. I also understand the company has offered to reduce the price of residential broadband DSL to \$10 per month and to deliver broadband to *all* residential units in its combined territory, including lower-income and rural areas. These commitments will help drive high-speed broadband usage and help close the digital divide between rich and poor, urban and rural. Jasper County Georgia is comprised of all of these groups.

I urge the Commission to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth promptly so that consumers can benefit as soon as possible from the broadband provisions this merger offers.

Sincerely,

  
Nancy Arnold Wood

President

Monticello - Jasper County  
Chamber of Commerce

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary  
WC Docket No. 06-74

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